

See
**Yosemite
Today**

for a complete calendar
of what's happening
in the park.

Yosemite Guide



Your Key to Visiting the Park

SUMMER/FALL 2002

VOLUME XXXI, NO. 1

25¢

Celebrating Yosemite



by Bob Roney



Courtesy of Yosemite Concession Services, Corp.

Look Inside!

| | |
|---|------------|
| Valley Map | Back Panel |
| Park Map | |
| Planning Your Visit . . . | 8 & 9 |
| Protect Your Park | 4 |
| Bears | 6 |
| Camping | 7 |
| Backpacking & Valley Day Hikes | 12 |
| Explore Yosemite . . . | 10 - 11 |
| Yosemite News | 2 & 3 |
| Just for Kids | 13 |

Half Dome and the Merced River
Painting by Gunnar Widforss, circa 1920

As the predawn light crept through the trees on the Valley floor, a 75-year-old man moved slowly and deliberately up the trail past Vernal Fall. The trail was an old friend to him. He hiked it every year to celebrate the anniversary of his birth. Mid-day would find him pulling himself up the last 900 feet of cable to the summit of Half Dome, one vertical mile above his starting point. He would later descend into the twilight-filled Valley and head for his room at The Ahwahnee. Once showered and dressed, he made his way downstairs to the dining room just in time for his 9:00 dinner reservation. This was a ritual he repeated every year for decades.

Continued on page 1

YOSEMITE GUIDE

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Celebrating Yosemite

Continued from front cover

Anniversaries celebrate important and meaningful events in our lives. You probably have many memorable occasions circled on your family's calendar—graduation days, weddings remembered, the birthdays of children. The 75-year-old man was not only celebrating his birth and past ascents of Half Dome, but his love of Yosemite. This year, the park celebrates The Ahwahnee's 75th anniversary, the 100th birthday of Ansel Adams, and the 100th anniversary of Best's Studio because of what they have come to mean to those of us who love Yosemite today.

DIAMOND AHWAHNEE

In June of 1928, local couple Lloyd and Elizabeth Graham honeymooned at Yosemite's newest hotel, The Ahwahnee and were among its first newlyweds. Since then, they have returned year after year to celebrate nearly 70 out of 74 anniversaries. This year marks the 75th anniversary of The Ahwahnee's opening, giving us cause to reflect on its place in history and the state of national parks at that time.

The 1920s were amazing years. Advances in science and technology raced toward a bright future. Ford's assembly-line production of automobiles made them more affordable and highly desirable to the common family. In Yosemite, tourist travel to the Valley and the Big Trees skyrocketed from 68,906 in 1920 to 461,257 in 1929—an increase of nearly 670%.

The Ahwahnee serves as an icon of the formative years of the National Park Service. In 1927, Stephen T. Mather marked his tenth anniversary of becoming the first director of the newly formed National Park Service. The Ahwahnee was built because Mather saw its value as a means to promote the importance of national parks. He knew that in order to prevent Yosemite from becoming a "Coney Island," large numbers of people (especially those with influence in Washington D.C.) would have to care about it in its natural state and want to see it protected for future generations.

This meant making parks accessible to a wide range of people, and The Ahwahnee served this purpose for a targeted segment of American society.

COINCIDENTAL CENTENNIALS

Today, two pianos in The Ahwahnee—touchstones of nostalgia for many—are celebrating anniversaries of their own. Years ago, honeymooners were charmed by the music played in the Great Lounge. In the early days of The Ahwahnee, a local fellow destined to become a concert pianist practiced on the piano in the Great Lounge. He became a regular and guests looked forward to his music in the afternoons. This young man never did become a famous musician. Instead, we know him as the world-renowned photographer and conservationist, Ansel Adams. Just as The Ahwahnee helped promote national parks, Adams' images

Lodge, he became acquainted with Best and was allowed to practice on his piano. In his autobiography, Ansel Adams says, "I was first attracted to Mr. Best's piano and soon thereafter to his daughter [Virginia Best]." In 1928, Ansel and Virginia were married in front of the stone fireplace in Best's Studio, which they inherited upon Harry's passing in 1936. Today it is known as The Ansel Adams Gallery and is the oldest family-owned business in the National Park System, currently in its fourth generation of operations.

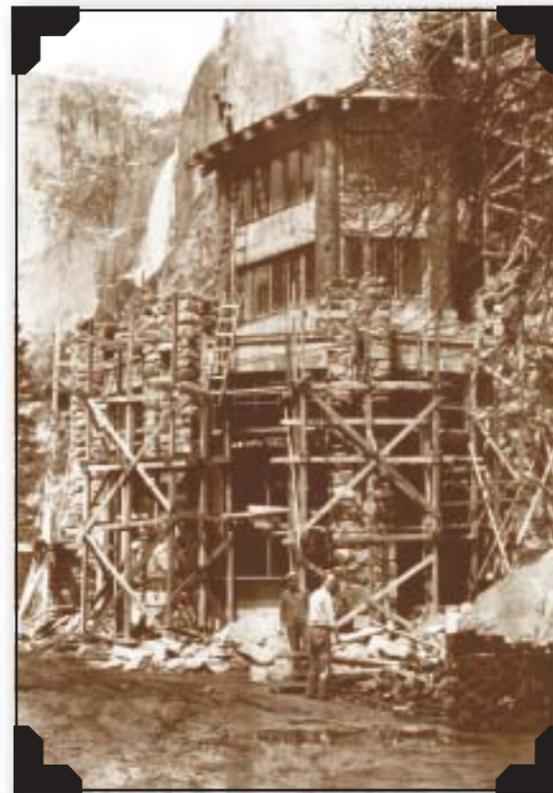
NATURE'S ANNIVERSARIES

While living and working in Yosemite, Ansel Adams invented a special anniversary he called "Earth's Birthday." The date was obviously contrived, but the sentiment was genuine. In the same sentimental spirit, we might say that there are trees in the Mariposa Grove that centuries ago celebrated the 1,000th anniversary of their sprouting. Likewise, the granite of El Capitan will celebrate its 104 millionth birthday this year, and Yosemite Valley celebrates the some-teen-thousandth anniversary of its last glacier.

Come to think of it, this is the 35th anniversary of my first visit to Yosemite—a profound, life-changing event for me. I began my career in Yosemite the following year. It's amazing how a visit to a special place like Yosemite has affected generations of people. Perhaps we feel a spiritual renewal or the awakening of a primal sense of our connectedness to our natural world.

Anniversaries are not so much about a date or event but the relationship of people to those dates and events. Whether it's the 75th anniversary for a landmark hotel, the 100th birthday of a great photographer and conservationist, or 1,000th for the sprouting of a giant sequoia, everything about Yosemite is connected—its human history, its natural history. I hope you can become part of Yosemite by connecting with some aspect of it. Then by all means, come back and celebrate your Yosemite anniversary!

 Bob Roney is a National Park Service ranger and Yosemite Master Interpreter. This article came from research he conducted in preparation for his Ahwahnee Anniversary interpretive programs (see Yosemite Today for schedule).



The Ahwahnee under construction.



Ansel (in front) and Virginia Adams (seated in back) in Yosemite, 1923.

resonated with those who might not otherwise visit Yosemite and underscored the importance of protecting wild places. The year 2002 marks what would have been his 100th birthday. (Incidentally, one of those pianos will also be 100 this year!)

It's the 100th anniversary for two other Yosemite events that would touch Ansel Adams' life. In 1902, the year Adams was born, a man named James Mason Hutchings, one of the park's early entrepreneurs, died in a carriage accident in Yosemite Valley. Hutchings had written a book entitled *In the Heart of the Sierras* which a young Ansel Adams read as a boy, piquing his interest and curiosity about Yosemite. Consequently, Adams' first visit in 1916 solidified a permanent relationship with the park that would lead to his love of wilderness, his fame as a photographer, and even his eventual marriage.

Also in 1902, landscape painter Harry Best opened Best's Studio in Yosemite Valley. When Adams moved to Yosemite Valley in 1920 to operate the Sierra Club

TO LEARN MORE...

- Take part in The Ahwahnee's Diamond Anniversary Celebration events hosted throughout the summer. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule.
- Visit The Ansel Adams Gallery, located in Yosemite Village, and take a tour of their fine print room or go on a photo walk. You can also learn more about Ansel Adams by viewing the film *Ansel Adams—Photographer*. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule.
- Go on a history walk with a National Park Service ranger to learn more about the development of Yosemite as a national park. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule.
- Visit the Yosemite Cemetery in the Valley where James Mason Hutchings is buried. A *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available in the Valley Visitor Center.

YOSEMITE GUIDE

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We're Interested

We are always looking for ways to improve our visitor publications. You can help by sending your comments via email to Kristina_Rylands@nps.gov; fax to 209/379-1294; or mail to the address on this *Yosemite Guide*.





On The Web

The official Yosemite National Park web site (www.nps.gov/yose/) contains the latest park information.



Camping reservations can be made online from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time (reservations.nps.gov).



The Yosemite Association's Yosemite Online (yosemite.org) features visitor information, a bookstore, gift shop, a listing of outdoor classes, membership news, the daily weather forecast, a live-camera view of Half Dome and Yosemite Valley, and even a 3-D QuickTime video of Yosemite Valley.



The Yosemite Fund web site (www.yosemitefund.org) has project updates with photographs online. It features photos of the restoration work at Glacier Point. Other features include "Wild Card," "Waterfalls," and "Tips For Travelers," along with current donation information.



The Yosemite Concession Services site (www.yosemitepark.com) features 200 pages of information on lodging, shopping, dining, and park activities with links to other Yosemite-related web sites. It also includes a live-camera view of Half Dome, an online gift shop, and lodging reservations.



The Ansel Adams Gallery site (www.anseladams.com) features fine art photography, gifts, a calendar of events, and photos of Yosemite and Mono Lake.



The Yosemite Institute's web site (www.yni.org/yi/) describes its residential, in-park field-science program for elementary, middle, and high school students, and provides post-visit challenge units for educators.



Yosemite.com offers the latest information on an 11,000-square-mile area containing and surrounding Yosemite. It also includes lodging information, travel advisories, and road and weather conditions.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



NPS Photo

Dear Yosemite Friends,
Welcome to Yosemite! Whether or not you have come to this magnificent park as a newlywed or to observe an anniversary, there is always something to celebrate in this special place. Bob Roney's article on the cover of this *Yosemite Guide* reminds us that the connections we make in this park can enrich us and make lasting impressions on our lives. Some visitors return year after year, generation after generation, turning Yosemite experiences into histories worth celebrating.

I invite you to start your own celebration today! Use this *Yosemite Guide* to explore and discover the park. New this summer is a section on the next page, "Stay Connected," which details some ways you can bring home and carry forward a little of your Yosemite experience.

I also encourage you to use *Yosemite Today*, a companion to this *Yosemite Guide*. It contains a calendar of all of the latest events and programs, facilities and services that can help you make the most of your Yosemite visit. This publication has proven to be an invaluable tool, connecting you with what to do and where to go in the park. Be sure to watch it for upcoming programs on this year's many Yosemite anniversaries.

National parks like Yosemite were set aside to celebrate the stories of our nation's heritage. When you visit a park, you help protect a bit of our history for future generations. In that way, when you visit a park, you honor and celebrate America.

Sincerely,

David A. Mihalic



Photo by Steven Smith, Geystone Communications

CONNECT TO THE SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

The National Park Service is proud to announce the completion of a state-of-the-art theater and a new park film at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. The film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, provides an introduction to the stories behind Yosemite's grand beauty, extraordinary community of living things, American Indian culture, and history of wildland preservation. The 23-minute surround-sound film, shot over a period of two years, makes a conscious effort to motivate Yosemite visitors to discover their own special connection with this magnificent national park. *Spirit of Yosemite* was made possible by donations from The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite National Park entrance fees.

REPAIRS TO HALF DOME TRAIL

This summer, the last half-mile of the popular trail to the summit of Half Dome will be repaired. From July 8 through September 19, hikers and climbers will have access to the trail from Thursday at 4:00 p.m. through Monday at 7:00 a.m., as well as 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Crews will repair the stone steps of the "shoulder" to the summit cables leading to the top the famous Yosemite landmark.

The stone steps in this part of the 8.5 mile trail to the top of Half Dome have deteriorated significantly, are at risk of failure, and need to be rebuilt. Hikers traditionally cut around the trail because of its condition and trample surrounding vegetation. The repair work will not only make the trail safer for hikers, but will also improve the communities of vegetation along this rocky section of trail. Repairs have not been completed in this area since 1973.

This project is being completed through donations from The Yosemite Fund (see page 14). For more information on the trail repair, visit the Valley Visitor Center.



Photo by Malcolm Greeny

ANSEL ADAMS AT 100

The man who has best communicated the beauty of Yosemite through photography during the 20th century is the late Ansel Adams. His images have been a source of inspiration, delight, and enjoyment to millions of people, and they defined the Yosemite landscape for many. He was a dogged conservationist who worked hard to protect the environment he photographed with such skill. He remained active as a photographer and conservationist until his death in 1984. Born in 1902, this would have been the year of his 100th birthday.



Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

May 31, 1934—Boys from the California Conservation Corps erect new cables on approach to the summit of Half Dome.



ENTRANCE FEES: EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA WHILE HELPING NATIONAL PARKS

Did you know that year after year of inflation and budget shortfalls have resulted in a postponement of over \$4 billion in needed road repair, building maintenance, and other infrastructure projects at units of the National Park System throughout the United States? Even though Yosemite and other parks may look on the surface the way they did a decade ago, the National Park Service is beset by financial difficulties brought about by increasing levels of visitation, underfunded infrastructure repair, and rising operating costs.

To help the National Park Service solve these problems, Congress took a bold step in 1996 and authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) Program. Prior to the Fee Demo Program, fees—such as entrance fees—collected at National Park

Service sites were returned to the U.S. Treasury, and were not available to directly support park projects. Under the Fee Demo Program, these fees are now retained by the agency that collects them and are earmarked for backlogged infrastructure projects and improved visitor services, with 80% retained in the collecting park and 20% shared with other parks to support similar projects.

In addition to providing admission into Yosemite, your fees directly support projects in the park as well as other sites in the National Park System. When you *Experience Your America* by visiting a Fee Demo site, you help the National Park Service preserve and protect our nation's heritage for future generations.



Projects completed in Yosemite, thanks to entrance fees:

- Renovation of the Valley Visitor Center's West Auditorium Theater
- Repair to sections of sewer line that services Yosemite Valley

Ongoing projects include:

- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins at Merced Lake, Ostrander Lake, and Miguel Meadows
- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-Valley campgrounds

Future projects include:

- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
- Improving shuttle buses in Yosemite Valley

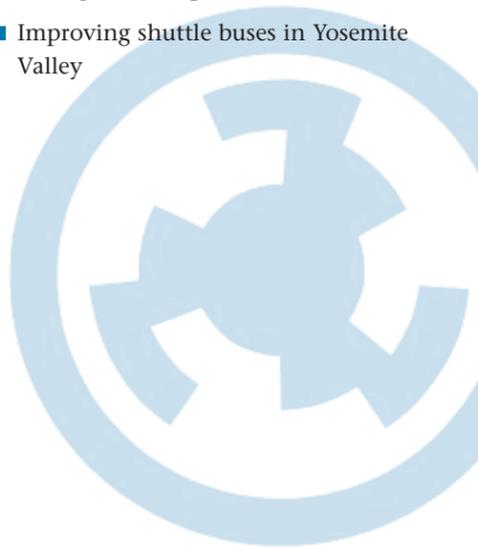


Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

February 21, 1927—A line of cars a quarter-mile long waits below the Arch Rock Entrance. Scenes like this prompted the National Park Service to address problems of overcrowding in the late 1920s.

WHAT'S NEW IN YOSEMITE?

CAMPGROUND REFURNISHING PROJECT

Through campground and entrance fees collected as part of the Fee Demonstration Program, nine campgrounds outside of Yosemite Valley have been refurnished since last summer. The 736 picnic tables and 434 fire rings, replaced by Youth Conservation Corps crews, will benefit 200,000 campers each year!

NEW SHUTTLE BUS FLEET

A new fleet of cleaner-burning diesel shuttle buses is on the road in Yosemite Valley. These vehicles will serve as an interim replacement fleet while alternative fuel buses are ordered and manufactured. This process is expected to take up to three years to complete.

DISCOVERY VANS

Thanks to a grant from the National Parks Foundation and the Coca-Cola Foun-

dation, Yosemite National Park recently purchased two large vans and filled them full of environmental education materials. The vans are being used in schools throughout the Central Valley of California, particularly in areas where children typically are not able to visit national parks. You can visit them each Wednesday in campgrounds in Yosemite throughout the summer; check *Yosemite Today* for details. To schedule a van visit to your school, call The Discovery Center at 559/251-5533.

COOK'S MEADOW RESTORATION CONTINUES

The latest restoration effort in Yosemite Valley's Cook's Meadow involved replacing an old asphalt trail with a raised boardwalk made of recycled material. Protective boardwalks, such as this one, help maintain the health of meadows by allowing hydrologic processes to continue unimpeded. The

boardwalk across this popular meadow is also wheelchair accessible with viewing platforms and interpretive wayside exhibits.

HAPPY ISLES GAUGING STATION BRIDGE REMOVAL

If you travel out to the Happy Isles area, you may notice that the Happy Isles Gauging Station Bridge has been removed. This footbridge was closed in July 1997 due to damage sustained during the January 1997 flood. To access the John Muir Trailhead, get off at the shuttle bus stop, cross the Happy Isles Vehicle Bridge, and meet up with the trail on the east side of the Merced River. A replacement bridge will be built some time in the future.

Stay Connected

National parks help connect us with places that tell the stories of what is truly special about America. A visit to a national park can bring about memories that will last a lifetime. After you arrive home, these are some ways you can stay connected with your Yosemite experience:

■ Learn more about the state-of-the-park.

A series of open houses will be conducted to inform visitors about the latest improvement projects occurring in the park. See *Yosemite Today* for scheduled dates.

■ Sign up to be on the Yosemite mailing list.

The first issue of a new, quarterly state-of-the-park newsletter is expected to be released later this summer. You can sign up at any visitor center.

■ Support one of Yosemite's park partner organizations.

The Yosemite Association and The Yosemite Fund are both nonprofit organizations that support the National Park Service's mission of protecting this special place for future generations. (See page 14 for more information.)

■ Volunteer your time or expertise.

Individuals or groups can participate in service projects in Yosemite. See page 15 for information on the Volunteers in Parks program.

■ Take part in a planning process.

Yosemite's planning efforts can only truly succeed with the help of public involvement. As the park moves forward with plans for various improvements, let your voice be heard. Sign up on the park's mailing list or visit the planning web page at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

■ Come back and spend some more time in this amazing park!

PROTECT YOUR PARK



Special Protection for Special Places

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With Yosemite's nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either intentionally or unknowingly harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- feeding wildlife
- collecting plants
- hunting animals
- collecting reptiles and butterflies
- picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- driving vehicles into sensitive meadows
- camping outside of designated campgrounds
- possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and contact the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. In Yosemite, pets have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas, on roads, and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of other visitors, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail, on unpaved trails, or in wilderness areas. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

Success! Five years ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. The soil was bare and heavily eroded. Now, because of the careful actions of park staff and visitors, many of these areas have been restored to more natural conditions. The plants, birds, insects, and animals that depend on living in or near the water have been able to return to these once barren areas.

You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch and removal points, and by taking breaks on rocky, sandy beaches or "point bars." Packing out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum.

Please observe the following safety tips to protect Yosemite's river and lakeshore habitats and to safely enjoy water activities throughout the park.

SWIMMING

- Always supervise children closely.
- Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions. Avoid areas of "whitewater" where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.

RIVER CROSSINGS

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by runoff from snowmelt are dangerous. Powerful current, icy water, and river obstructions can trap or kill the unwary.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid "rock hopping." Stream-polished rocks along the water's edge may be slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid deep and/or swift water. If

WATER WAYS

crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs, consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight or your pack, unbuckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

RAFTING

- Rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel Beach), and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.
- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.

FISHING

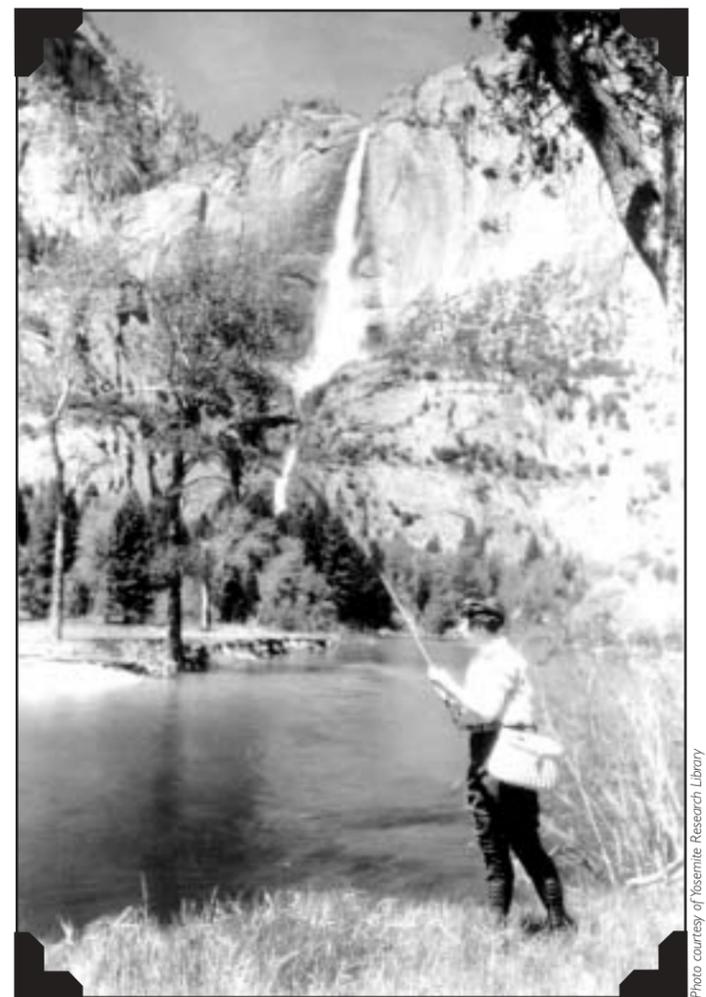
- Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under State law. A valid California sport fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.
- Trout season opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through

November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor which opens June 15). All lakes and reservoirs are open year-round.

- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Pohono Bridge, and from there downstream to Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

WATER QUALITY

- To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6" deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.



April 1, 1925—Miss Bernice Kelly fishing along the Merced River. You can protect the river by avoiding banks where restoration is in progress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...

- Fire safety tips, see page 5.
- Food storage guidelines, see page 6.
- Camping and campfires, see page 7.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 12.
- Bicycling rules, see page 9.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traveling through Yosemite by car, bus, or bicycle provides a wonderful opportunity to slow down and enjoy the park's incredible scenery. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules:

- Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Please obey posted speed limits.
- California law requires that you wear seatbelts and use child safety seats for children under six years of

age or under 60 pounds in weight. All motorcyclists must wear helmets.

- Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.
- Stay alive, don't drink and drive. For your safety, park rangers enforce laws against alcohol and drug related driving offenses.

NATURE NOTES



EXPLORE THE WORLD OF NATURE

Are you interested in learning more about Yosemite's birds, rocks, and trees at your own pace? Borrow an Explorer Pack, a convenient day pack filled with activities and guidebooks designed to help the whole family explore the world of nature.

Four different packs are available at the Nature Center at Happy Isles (opens mid-June) in Yosemite Valley. *Featuring Feathers* will help you learn to identify many of Yosemite's birds, *Rocking in Yosemite* teaches the geology of the park, *The World of Trees* aids in tree identification, and *Small Wonders* will help you to discover the many tiny miracles around you. Packs are available for checkout and are free. A \$50 deposit (cash or credit card) is required and will be refunded when the pack is returned.

THE AHWAHNEE'S COLORFUL HISTORY

Gilbert Stanley Underwood was a 35-year-old architect when he was hired to create a grand, first-class hotel in the middle of Yosemite National Park. It opened its doors on July 14, 1927, and cost \$1.5 million to build. The Ahwahnee has had a rich and colorful 75-year history. But some of its lesser-known highlights may surprise you!

When The Ahwahnee opened on July 14, 1927, what wine did they use for the opening night toast?

No wine was used, for the year was 1927—during the height of prohibition. Instead, opening night was toasted with sparkling water!

What notable people have stayed at The Ahwahnee?

Presidents: Herbert Hoover, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan

Royalty: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip in 1983

Celebrities: Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Judy Garland, Shirley Temple, Helen Hayes, Jack Benny, Red Skelton

What became of The Ahwahnee during World War II?

In 1943, the Navy moved all of the furniture and artwork to a warehouse in Oakland, California and The Ahwahnee was transformed into a convalescent hospital. The Great Lounge became a dormitory for 350 men, and at times there were as many as 850 patients and staff occupying the grand hotel. However, servicemen soon grew weary as Yosemite was far away from loved ones and "civilization."

FIRE AS A TOOL

Yosemite fire managers recognize that fire has been an essential part of the ecosystem for thousands of years. Since the early 1970s, managers have used two tools to restore the benefits of this natural process: *wildland fire* and *prescribed fire*.

Wildland fires caused by lightning may be allowed to burn under strictly monitored conditions in certain park wilderness areas. Since 1972, 550 lightning fires have been successfully managed by Yosemite National Park's fire staff. Where it is not prudent to allow fires to burn, the park has a policy of fire suppression combined with a prescribed fire program. *Prescribed fires* are ignited under approved conditions by qualified park fire staff to protect developed areas (like Yosemite Valley and Wawona) and in other areas with unnaturally high amounts of dead and down woody debris. Yosemite has safely con-

ducted 191 prescribed burns since 1970.

All human caused wildland fires are immediately suppressed no matter where they occur within the park.

During your visit, you may notice signs along roadways indicating that a managed fire is in progress. Please heed all warning signs posted in fire areas. Occasionally, trails that are within or adjacent to fires need to be closed for safety reasons. Trail closures will be posted in the Valley's Wilderness Center and at appropriate trailheads.

In May, the National Park Service released the *Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. The purpose of this document is to provide direction on how best to manage fire activities throughout Yosemite National Park. To stay informed on this and other park planning efforts, visit the park's planning web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.



August 1, 1926—Stephen T. Mather, Yosemite National Park superintendent, at the laying of The Ahwahnee's cornerstone. Don Tressider, Mary "Mother" Curry, and Govenor Grosvenor in front row, right to left.

Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

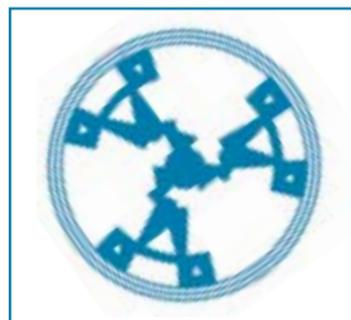
What type of wood was used for the large beams surrounding the exterior of The Ahwahnee?

Although they look like wood, those massive timbers are actually made of painted concrete. Underwood was instructed to create a "fire-proof" hotel.

Where was the original entrance to the hotel?

What is now the Ahwahnee Bar was really intended to be the main entrance to the hotel. But a mere 10 days before The Ahwahnee's opening, it was discovered that the fumes and noise from delivery trucks wafted to the rooms directly above the entrance. A new timber port-cochere became the entry that is still used today.

For more information on special commemorative events for this landmark anniversary, visit The Ahwahnee concierge desk, check *Yosemite Today*, or view the special events section on www.yosemitepark.com.



In 1927, designer Jeannette Dyer Spencer created this figure which became an emblem symbolic of The Ahwahnee.

Fire Safety

Each year campfires, cigarettes, and human carelessness cause unwanted fires in Yosemite. You can help prevent these fires by following a few fire safety tips.

Campfires

- Build small campfires in established campfire rings.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Extinguish campfires by stirring with water a half hour before leaving the site. Carefully feel charred material to make certain the fire is cold and out.

Cigarettes

- Never throw lighted cigarettes on the ground or out of a car window.
- Crush cigarette butts dead and out before discarding them in an ashtray or trash can.
- Do not smoke while walking on trails. Stop, smoke, and properly discard the cigarette butt before resuming your walk.

Charcoal Briquettes

- Never burn charcoal briquettes in a tent or vehicle. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal is deadly in a confined space.
- After use, dunk burning briquettes in water until cold. Carefully check them to make sure the fire is out.
- Never throw burning or warm briquettes into trashcans or dumpsters.

Camping Stoves and Lanterns

- Refuel stoves or lanterns only when they are cold and in a well-ventilated area.
- These devices also produce carbon monoxide gas which can be deadly if used in tents, vehicles, or other confined spaces.



BEARS



Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and very important part of the park ecosystem and help to keep deer populations in check. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer populations, which includes many areas of the park. Although lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as is injury from any wild animal. We offer the following recommendations for your safety:

Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended, especially at dawn and dusk. Pets can attract mountain lions into developed areas.



Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Talk to children about lions, and teach them what to do if they meet one.



What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.



Don't run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.



If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous yourself. If attacked, fight back!



Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

BEARS ARE NOT TO BLAME: STORE FOOD PROPERLY

Since 1998, there has been an 85% decline in the number of black bear incidents throughout the park. Thanks to visitors using proper food storage techniques, fewer bears are relying on human food.

Driven by their powerful sense of smell and voracious appetite, black bears are drawn to human food. Once they get it, they continue to seek it out from backpacks, picnic tables, ice chests, and even cars. As their natural fear of people fades, they may become aggressive. When bears become too aggressive, they often have to be killed. In 2001, there were 230 incidents involving bears, resulting in over \$30,000 in damage; one bear had to be killed. The only way to stop this devastating cycle is to make sure that all food and trash are stored properly.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear in a developed area of the park (e.g., campground, parking lot, etc.) or on a hiking trail, act immediately:

yell, clap your hands, and bang pots together, throw small stones or sticks toward the bear from a safe distance (the intent is to scare the bear, not to injure it). If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear (allow the bear a path to run away). When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away. Use caution if you see cubs, because a mother may act aggressively to defend them. Never try to retrieve anything once a bear has it.

On occasion, park rangers will go a step further, shooting loud noisemakers or rubber projectiles to chase bears out of developed areas. Report all bear sightings to a park ranger as soon as possible.



Illustration by Lawrence Ormsby

BACKPACKERS: USE BEAR-RESISTANT FOOD CANISTERS

Bear resistant food canisters are 3-pound plastic containers used by backpackers to store a 3 to 5 day supply of food. The canisters have an inset lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears quickly learn that the canisters are not worth investigating, even though they smell like food. See page 15 or *Yosemite Today* for canister rental locations throughout the park.

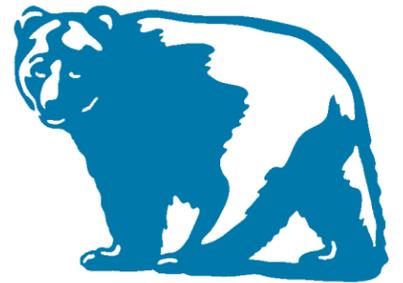
HOW TO STORE FOOD

"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Follow the regulations in the table below to help keep Yosemite's bears wild.

| LOCATION | FOOD STORAGE | WHY? |
|--|--|--|
| PARKING AREAS | You may store food in vehicles only during daylight hours. Do not store food in vehicles after dark. Don't forget to clear vehicles of food wrappers, crumbs in baby seats, and baby wipes. Use a food storage locker where available. | Bears can smell food, even if it's sealed in a glove compartment or trunk, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles! The less cluttered your vehicle, the less likely a bear will break into it to investigate. |
| CAMPGROUNDS | You must store all food in food storage lockers without exception, day and night. Each campsite contains a food storage locker ("bear box"), measuring 33"x45"x18". Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs. | Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check bear boxes to see if they're secured. Keep bear boxes closed and latched with their clips at all times. |
| TENT CABINS | You must store all food in food storage lockers, day and night. In Curry Village, coin-operated lockers are available for small items (do not leave items in an unlocked coin locker—items may be confiscated). Never leave items with an odor in your tent cabin! | Bears may break into tent cabins, even if they only smell cosmetics. |
| HOTEL ROOMS & CABINS | You must keep all food inside your room; if you are not in the room, the windows and doors must be closed. | Bears can easily break into hard-sided cabins through an open door or open window. |
| PICNIC AREAS & ON THE TRAIL | Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within an arm's reach. | Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert. |
| BACKPACKING IN THE WILDERNESS | Bear resistant food containers are required in some areas and are strongly recommended everywhere else. Hanging food is nothing more than a delaying tactic for bears, as bears can easily scale trees. | In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. |

NOTE: Following these regulations and precautions helps decrease the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the guidelines are followed. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a citation and/or impoundment of property.

KEEP BEARS WILD



YOSEMITE WILD BEAR PROJECT

SUPPORT THE YOSEMITE WILD BEAR PROJECT

Help keep Yosemite's bears wild! Purchase items from park bookstores bearing the "Keep Bears Wild" logo. Proceeds from the sale of these products directly benefit the Yosemite Wild Bear Project. You can also make a donation to the Yosemite Association to support distribution and purchase of bear-resistant food storage canisters described above. Call 209/379-2646 for more information.

For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park's web site (www.nps.gov/yose).

SAVE-A-BEAR HOTLINE

To report trash problems, improper food storage, bear sightings, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322. Your call can be made anonymously.

CAMPING



CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required year round for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.

Camping reservations are available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month through the National Park Reservation System (NPRS).

Thus, for:

| CAMPING ARRIVAL DATE | FIRST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATION |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| All dates thru 11/14/02 | 6/15/02 |
| 11/15/02 thru 12/14/02 | 7/15/02 |
| 12/15/02 thru 1/14/03 | 8/15/02 |
| 1/15/03 thru 2/14/03 | 9/15/02 |
| 2/15/03 thru 3/14/03 | 10/15/02 |
| 3/15/03 thru 4/14/03 | 11/15/02 |

From May through September, campsites are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call NPRS as early as possible in the period.

Reservations can be made by phone, mail, or online. All requests are processed at the same time, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests will be accepted 2 weeks prior to the 15th. Include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (i.e., tent, RV, etc.), as well as method of payment.

YOSEMITE VALLEY

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, **May 1 - September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite Valley and Wawona is 7 days inclusive, and 14 days outside the Valley.** Campers may request a specific campsite number if it is available at the time the reservation is made. **All campsite assignments are final**—you may not switch or change campsites after you arrive in the park. **The maximum length for recreational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.**

Camp 4 (formerly Sunnyside Campground) is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are rented on

a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of the number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9:00 a.m. each day May through September.

CAMPING IN AREAS SURROUNDING YOSEMITE

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. **For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices: Highway 120 West, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7825; Highway 140, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638; Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/647-3044; Highway 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/683-4636.** For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 8.

GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made through NPRS; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets and generators are not permitted in group sites.

SERVICES

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker (33"dx 45"w x 18"h). See *Bears Are Not to Blame* on page 6 for food storage regulations.
- Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows during limited hours. See *Yosemite Today* for locations and hours of service.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

REGULATIONS

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Generators may be used sparingly between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

CAMPFIRES

- In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley, campfires are only permitted from May 1 through October 15 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes "dead and down" wood.
- Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.

Reservations may be made from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS:
800/436-7275

ONLINE RESERVATIONS:
reservations.nps.gov
You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

INTERNATIONAL CALLERS:
301/722-1257

TDD (TOLL-FREE):
888/530-9796

MAIL-IN RESERVATIONS:
NPRS
P.O. Box 1600
Cumberland, MD 21502

Up to two campsites may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Mastercard, Visa, Discover, personal check, or money order. For more information, call the park campgrounds office at 209/372-8502 or visit online (www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm).



Summer 1921—Campfire programs have always been a National Park Service tradition.

Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

CAMPGROUNDS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

| | CAMPGROUND | ELEVATION | MILES FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY | NUMBER OF SITES/ SPACES | DAILY FEE* | TAP WATER | STREAM WATER (BOIL) | PETS ALLOWED | GROCERIES NEARBY | STOCK CAMP | NOTES** |
|--|---|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|------------------|--|--|
| IN YOSEMITE VALLEY | NORTH PINES | 4,000'/1,200m | 0 | 81 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | ● | | Open April-September Reservations required |
| | UPPER PINES | 4,000'/1,200m | 0 | 238 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | ● | | Open All Year Reservations required |
| | LOWER PINES | 4,000'/1,200m | 0 | 60 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | ● | | Open March-October Reservations required |
| | CAMP 4 WALK-IN (Sunnyside) | 4,000'/1,200m | 0 | 35 | \$5/p | ● | | | ● | | Open All Year/Walk-In First-come, first-served. Limited parking |
| OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY | WAWONA Wawona Road (Highway 41) near Wawona | 4,000'/1,200m | 27 | 93 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | ● | ● | Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12) |
| | BRIDALVEIL CREEK Glacier Point Road | 7,200'/2,194m | 25 | 110 | \$12/s | ● | | ● | | ● | Open July-early September First-come, first-served |
| | HODGDON MEADOW Big Oak Flat Road (Hwy. 120 West near the Big Oak Flat Entrance) | 4,872'/1,484m | 25 | 105 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | | | Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12) |
| | CRANE FLAT Big Oak Flat Road, near the Tioga Road turnoff | 6,191'/1,886m | 17 | 166 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | ● | | Open June-September Reservations required |
| | TAMARACK FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) | 6,315'/1,924m | 23 | 52 | \$8/s | | ● | | | | Open June-September Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers. First-come, first-served |
| | WHITE WOLF Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) | 8,000'/2,437m | 31 | 74 | \$12/s | ● | | ● | | | Open July-early September First-come, first-served Not suitable for RVs over 27' |
| | YOSEMITE CREEK Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) | 7,659'/2,333m | 35 | 75 | \$8/s | | ● | ● | | | Open July-early September Five-mile access road not suitable for RVs over 24' or trailers. First-come, first-served |
| | PORCUPINE FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) | 8,100'/2,468m | 38 | 52 | \$8/s | | ● | | | | Open July-September RV access front section only First-come, first-served |
| TUOLUMNE MEADOWS Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) | 8,600'/2,620m | 55 | 304 | \$18/s | ● | | ● | ● | ● | Open July-September ½ advanced reservations, ½ same-day reservations | |

*s = per site
/p = per person

**Dates approximate

What is the best way to visit Yosemite?

Your experience in Yosemite depends on the time you have available and your interests. Many fine maps and books are sold in visitor centers and park stores to help plan your visit. Publications such as *Yosemite's Official Park Handbook*, published by the National Park Service, or *The Yosemite Road Guide* are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or www.yosemitestore.com.

Remember that road and trail conditions and available services may change with the weather. **For current conditions and general information, call 209/372-0200.**

TRANSPORTATION

To and From Yosemite

THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (YARTS) offers park visitors an alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing transit service throughout the region. This new voluntary bus service provides scheduled round-trip transit service to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Expanded summer service is offered mid-May to mid-September. New daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs in July and August. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS web site at www.yarts.com or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/388-9589.

Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided throughout the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. In summer, free shuttle buses run from Wawona to the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. Hikers' buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hikers' bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

LODGING

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848 or by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727 or visit www.yosemitepark.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. Lodging outside Yosemite Valley includes the Wawona Hotel, and in summer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Rates range from \$54 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to \$366 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to one year and one day in advance.

1 YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Many activities and services are available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information is available at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map and scheduled Valley activities in *Yosemite Today*.

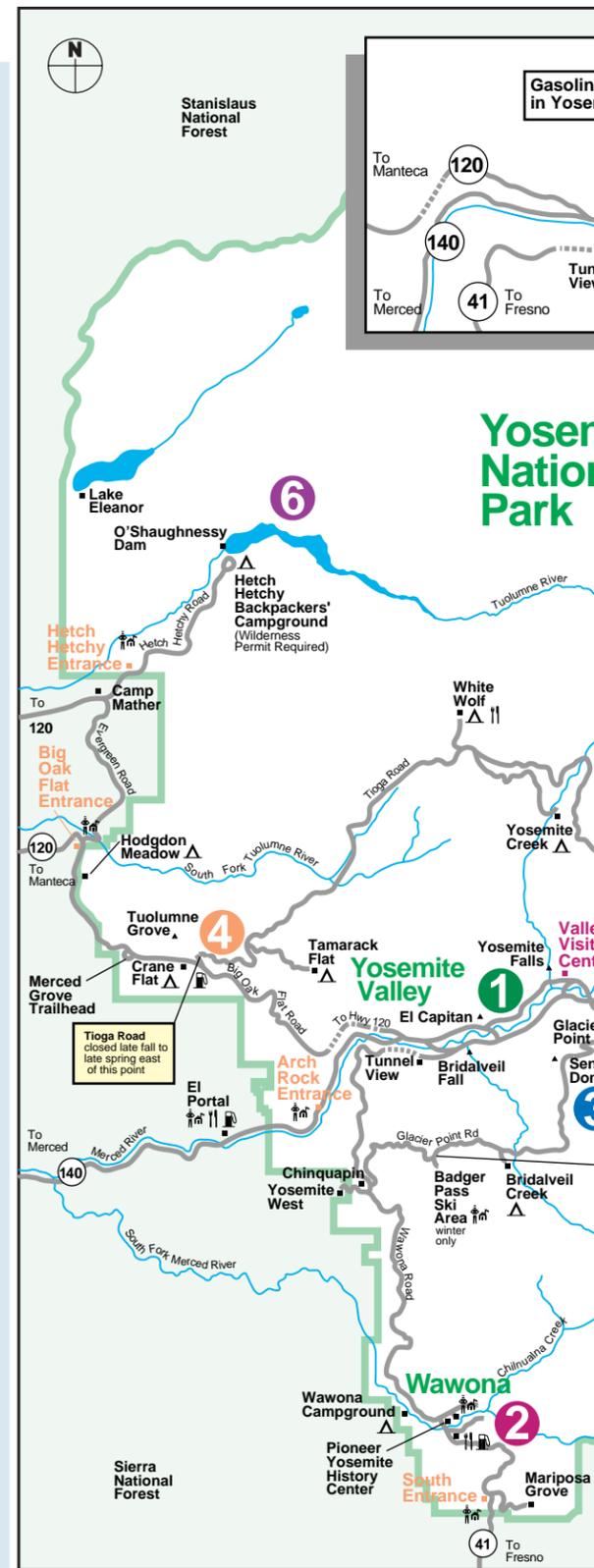
2 MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park's South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed in winter. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and tram tours of the Grove (weather permitting) late spring through fall. Trail brochures printed in English, French, Japanese, and Spanish are available at the Grove trailhead. **To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle bus (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road, and vehicles 23 feet and longer are restricted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.**

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour of the Center year-round. See *Yosemite Today* for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove.

3 GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a 1-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see the Valley from its rim. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) 14 miles to the Chinquapin junction, then turn left onto the Glacier Point Road. The road ends at Glacier Point. The Glacier Point Road is generally open from late spring through late fall. In winter, the road is plowed only as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via skis or snowshoes only. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule of activities.



ENTRANCE FEES

THE PARK IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, YEAR-ROUND.
(fees subject to change)

| TYPE | PRICE | NOTES |
|---|-------|--|
| Vehicle | \$20 | Valid for seven days. |
| Individual | \$10 | In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for seven days. |
| Yosemite Pass | \$40 | Valid for one year in Yosemite. |
| National Parks Pass | \$50 | Valid for 1 year in all national park areas. |
| Golden Eagle Hologram for National Parks Pass | \$15 | Covers entrance fees at other federal sites when purchased with the National Parks Pass. |
| Golden Age Pass (Lifetime) | \$10 | For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over. |
| Golden Access Pass (Lifetime) | Free | For blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents. |



Bridalveil Fall
Painting by Thomas Moran, 1924

INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

West Highway 120
Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4020
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1333 or 209/533-4420
www.thegreatunfenced.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
40637 Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/683-4636
www.sierranet.net/~ysvb

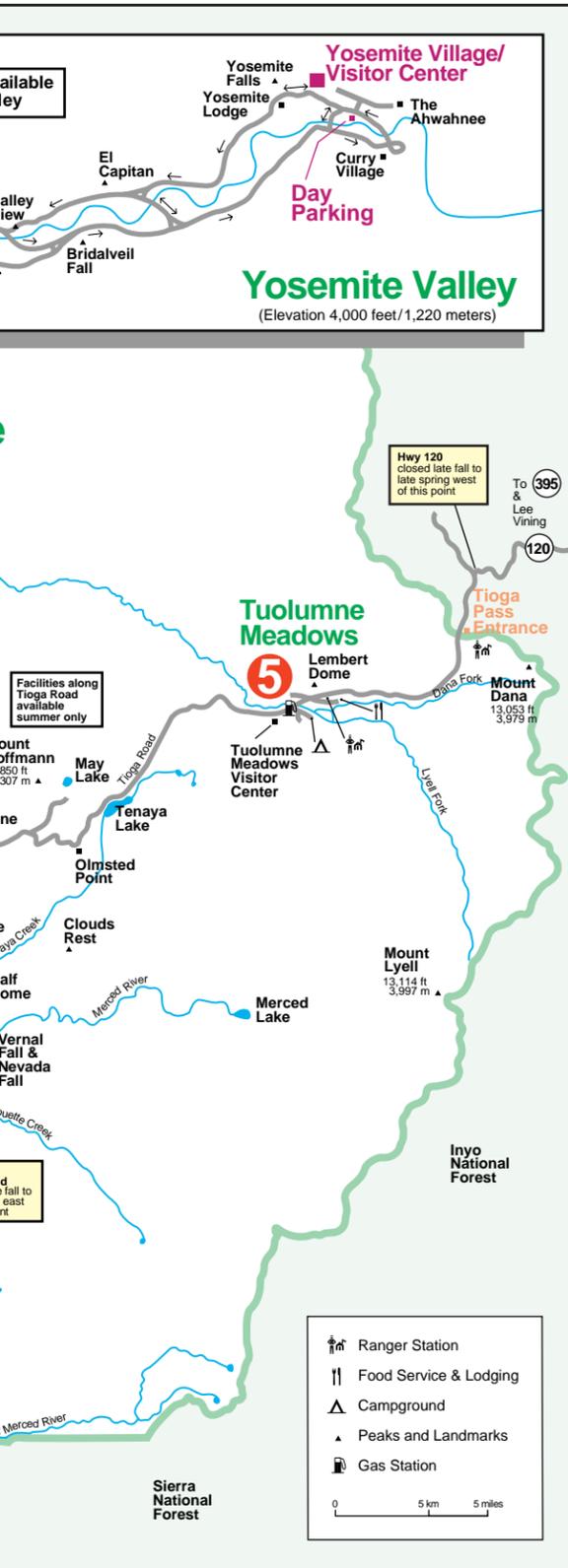
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 333
5007 Main Street
Coulterville, CA 95311
209/878-3074
mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Bureau
(also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
P.O. Box 967
5158 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456
www.homeofyosemite.com

East Highway 120
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce
and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 130
Highway 395 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/647-6629
www.leevining.com

California Welcome Center, Merced
710 W. 16th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

YOUR VISIT



4 CRANE FLAT

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East), and walk one mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed. For activities and area information, see *Yosemite Today*.

Take a 4-mile round-trip hike or ski into the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias, located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trailhead is marked by a post labeled B-10 and a road sign.

5 TIOGA ROAD AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

The Tioga Road is generally open from late May through late October or early November and offers a 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at Crane Flat to 9,900 feet at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station. There are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check visitor centers and park bulletin boards for updated information on available services and activities. From late fall through late spring, this area is only accessible by cross-country skis or snowshoes. For activities, see *Yosemite Today*.

6 HETCH HETCHY

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many less-used wilderness trails. Towering cliffs and high waterfalls are easily seen from the walkway on top of O'Shaughnessy Dam. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the road due to its narrowness.

RECREATION

Bicycling More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging strollers, and bicycle child trailers are available at Yosemite Lodge (all seasons) and Curry Village (summer). Check with rental agent for restrictions on rental bike use.

Bike Rules

For your safety and to protect Yosemite National Park, please follow these rules:

- California law mandates bicyclists under 18 years of age wear helmets.
- Bikes are allowed only on paved bikeways and park roads (unless the road is closed to bicycle use).
- Bikes are not allowed off roads or on pedestrian and hiking trails.
- Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roadways used by automobiles.

Trail Riding Weather and trail conditions permitting, 2-hour, half-day, and full-day rides depart from stables in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona spring through fall. Closed in winter. Call 209/372-8348 for information.

Hiking & Backpacking Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails park-wide. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows (spring through fall); in winter, check at the Valley Visitor Center, or call 209/372-0200. Wilderness permits are required for overnight wilderness users. For wilderness permit information and reservations, call 209/372-0740 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness. For some ideas on hiking, as well as information about backpacking, see page 12.

Rock Climbing Classes The Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers beginner through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring through fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows in late spring through summer. Call 209/372-8344 for information.



Get More Info...

- Recorded General Park Information including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-0200
- Western U.S. National Parks 415/556-0560
- On the Web (see page 2)
 - Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose
 - Yosemite Concession Services www.yosemitepark.com
 - Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov
 - Regional Information www.yosemite.com
 - Yosemite Association yosemite.org
 - Yosemite Fund www.yosemitefund.org
 - Yosemite Institute www.yni.org/yi
 - The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.com
 - VIA/Gray Line www.via-adventures.com

RESERVATIONS

- Lodging Reservations 559/252-4848 TDD 559/255-8345
- Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/436-7275 TDD 888/530-9796
- Campground Reservations (International callers only) 301/722-1257

VISITOR CENTERS

The four visitor centers in Yosemite National Park are excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and handouts. See *Yosemite Today* for more information.

YOSEMITE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Open daily all year.

BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

WAWONA INFORMATION STATION AT HILL'S STUDIO

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

Closed in winter and spring; generally open June through September.

VISITOR ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, or

traditional games are offered at the Indian Cultural Exhibit in Yosemite Valley. Other exhibits are in the Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Museum, Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer), LeConte Memorial Lodge (summer), Wilderness Center, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows (summer), and Glacier Point (summer). Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed in *Yosemite Today*.

TOURS

For a relaxing and informative experience, take a sightseeing tour on a bus or open-air tram (weather permitting). These tours, narrated by informed guides, operate daily to most points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year-round), Tuolumne Meadows (summer), Glacier Point, Wawona, and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (spring through fall). Two-hour moonlight tours show Yosemite Valley in a different light during summer months. In winter, tours are conducted on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sightseeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk. Information is also available online at www.yosemitepark.com.



A Yosemite Deaf Services Coordinator may be available to interpret ranger-led activities and provide park information for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors June through August. For more information about the Deaf Services Program, come to the Valley Visitor Center information desk, or call 209/372-4726 (TDD) or 209/372-0296 (voice/TDD). The TDD number for lodging reservations is 559/255-8345; for camping reservations, call 888/530-9796.

EXPLORE YOSEMITE



SPECTACULAR VISTAS AND QUIET CORNERS OF THE PARK

Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including groves of giant sequoias. Within its 1,200 square miles—a landscape roughly the size of the state of Rhode Island—there is much to see and do. During your visit, we invite you to experience as much of this glorious place as possible. No doubt, you will most likely spend part of your visit in the incomparable Yosemite Valley. These pages will briefly touch upon some of the park's other special corners.

ALONG THE TIOGA ROAD (Opens late May)

Originally a wagon road across the Tioga Pass built by the Great Consolidated Silver Company in 1883, the Tioga Road literally splits Yosemite National Park in two. Improved to its present condition and realignment in 1961, the road opened up some of Yosemite's most stunning country and allowed access to previously remote high-country destinations. This road is closed for winter some time in November and reopens for the season in late May.

White Wolf

You could easily spend an entire afternoon exploring the lush meadows and forests of this Tioga Road retreat. Take a day hike to peaceful glacial lakes, such as Lukens Lake (mostly uphill, but less than a mile, great for families) or Harden Lake (a relatively flat 6-mile round trip). Each hike is relatively easy with trailheads located near the campground in the heart of White Wolf.

Olmsted Point

Located about midway between White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows, Olmsted Point offers one of the hands-down most spectacular vistas anywhere in the park. Here the enormous walls of the Tenaya Canyon are exposed and



Half Dome as seen from Olmsted Point.

an endless view stretches all the way to Yosemite Valley where Clouds Rest and the back side of Half Dome are visible.

Tenaya Lake

A few minutes east of Olmsted Point is Tenaya Lake, named for the leader of Yosemite Valley's native people before the arrival of Euro-Americans. Tenaya Lake is one of the best places to have a swim along the Tioga Road. One of the park's larger lakes, Tenaya Lake is approximately 8 miles west of Tuolumne Meadows, or 30 miles east of Crane Flat. The inviting sandy beach on the eastern shore is a good bet, but be prepared for some cold water.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is a stunningly picturesque region that sits 8,600 feet up in the transparent sky of Yosemite's high country. Contained in a basin about 2.5 miles long, the meadow system may be the largest in the Sierra Nevada at the subalpine level. Tuolumne Meadows is only 55 miles by road from Yosemite Valley, but it's a world apart. The hiking around Tuolumne Meadows is first-rate. The trails are varied, the scenery is exceptional, and the weather usually cooperative (but plan for afternoon thundershow-



Tenaya Lake, a sparkling jewel on the Tioga Road, is located just west of Tuolumne Meadows.

ers, particularly in August). A person staying at Tuolumne Meadows could take a different hike every day of the week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some of the recommended hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Stop in at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for a free day hike hand-out.

WANDER THE WAWONA AREA

Wawona Point (in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias)

For great views high above Wawona, this short, half-mile walk is not to be missed. From Wawona Point you'll be able to see the Wawona Meadow and golf course, with views to the east of Wawona Dome. This excellent lookout on the entire Wawona basin is a short walk from the top of the Mariposa Grove. Get off the tram at the Wawona Tunnel Tree and walk back to the north to the Galen Clark Tree where the old road to Wawona Point branches



Harden Lake, near White Wolf, is a relatively easy 6-mile round-trip hike.



Cathedral Peak is one of Tuolumne Meadow's most prominent features.

EXPLORE YOSEMITE



Chilnualna Fall is an impressive series of cascades just outside of Wawona.

off. Ask your tram driver for directions if you need them. The round trip walk should take you less than an hour. To take in a sunset view, bring a flashlight and be prepared to walk over and hour back to the parking area (trams stop operating at 7:30 p.m.).

Chilnualna Fall

One of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley, the Chilnualna Fall cascades down two chutes. The fall, instead of leaping and free falling from some precipice, drops through a narrow chasm in a furious rush. The trail to this delightful cascade is fairly strenuous, gaining almost 2,500 feet in approximately 4 miles. The route is an enjoyable one through manzanita, deer brush, and bear clover and finally meets with Chilnualna Creek. Start from the trailhead, which is located 1.7 miles east of the main road on Chilnualna Falls Road. If the road turns to dirt, you've gone too far. Allow 6 to 8 hours for this 8 mile round trip. Carry lots of water in the summer when temperatures can be extreme.

The Meadow Loop

This easy, leisurely, and picturesque walk begins directly across the Wawona Road from the entry to the Wawona Hotel. Its almost entirely flat route skirts the edges of the Wawona Meadow, then circles back, crosses the Wawona Road, and finishes up behind the Wawona Hotel. This stroll amounts to about 3 miles total and may take an hour or so.



Check out the 360 degree High Sierra view from the top of Sentinel Dome.

THREE GREAT HIKES FROM THE GLACIER POINT ROAD (Opens late May)

Sentinel Dome Trail

Ansel Adams made the top of this dome famous with his unforgettable shot of the wind-swept Jeffrey pine. The 1.1 mile hike to the top is a small price to pay for the 360 degree panorama of Yosemite's unbelievable landscape. See Yosemite Falls in its entirety—from upper fall, middle cascades, to lower fall. You'll be at 8,122 feet (more than 4,000 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor). It's a good idea to have a park map for landmark identification, although a landmark compass is inset in a granite boulder, marking most of the major peaks in the 360 degree view. Try this easy hike at sunrise or sunset or on the night of a full moon (bring a flashlight). The round trip requires about two hours. The trailheads for this hike and the one to Taft Point are the same. Park at the Sentinel Dome parking area (it's about at the spot where you first eye Sentinel Dome). There is no water available, however a vault toilet is located at the parking area.

Taft Point Trail

Unusual rock formations and an overhanging lookout point reward hikers on this short route. Start at the Sentinel Dome parking lot. The trail is mostly flat and slightly downhill to the fissures. Some of the cracks are 40 feet long and 20 feet wide at the top and 1,000 feet deep. The wall of Yosemite actually overhangs the narrow ravine at Taft Point where you'll be standing on the only solid object between you and the Valley floor, thousands of feet below you. It's just over two miles round trip; give yourself two hours.

Much of the text for "Explore Yosemite" comes from The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park by Steven P. Medley. This everything-you-need-to-know book, published by the Yosemite Association, is available at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. You can also stop at a visitor center for a day hike hand-out.

Dewey Point

One of the most interesting perspectives on Bridalveil Fall and El Capitan is afforded by this commanding view point (7,385 feet). The trail starts two-tenths of a mile west of (before you get to) Bridalveil Campground on the Glacier Point Road. You can begin at the McGurk Meadow trailhead, then head north. The route meanders through forest and meadows, intersects with the Pohono Trail (go left), then extends to the Valley rim. While there's not much elevation gain or loss, the round trip is approximately 7 miles. Allow 4 to 6 hours for the out and back hike.



McGurk Meadow, on the trail to Dewey Point.



Taft Point and the Fissures offer dramatic views of Yosemite Valley and the natural processes of erosion at work.

ON THE TRAIL



Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer.

John Muir
(1838-1914)

EXPERIENCE YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS . . . SAFELY

Yosemite National Park is a place of steep canyons, waterfalls, craggy mountain peaks, and gently rounded domes. It is a place where rain, wind, fire, and flood are a part of its inherent beauty, where the landscape is shaped by falling rock and toppling trees. It is a place where animals are wild and plants prevail.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning you can minimize the human risks associated with many of these activities:

HIKING, BACKPACKING, ROCK CLIMBING AND SCRAMBLING

- Be honest about your abilities and plan activities toward the least experienced member of your group.

- Always tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.
- Stay on designated trails or routes. Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail. If new to climbing, take a class to learn important safety techniques before venturing out alone.
- Check weather forecasts prior to your trip. Sudden extreme changes in weather can occur even in summer.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water and food.
- Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry minimum repair materials.
- Avoid the combination of wetness, wind and cold. Know symptoms and treatment methods for hypothermia. Carry emergency fire starting materials and food.

PROTECT YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS

- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing, well-used campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be 4 miles from any populated area and 1 mile from any road before camping.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and 8 people for off-trail travel.

- Yosemite is a wildlife preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite's wilderness trails.
- See page 5 for food storage regulations; see page 4 for water quality and water safety information.

WILDERNESS PERMITS

Wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. Permits are available by advanced reservation or on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day prior to, the beginning of your trip. Permits are issued at Wilderness Centers located in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. For general hiking information or for information on making a wilderness permit reservation, visit any park wilderness center. Call 209/372-0200, or visit the wilderness web site at www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness.

Backpackers who plan to visit Yosemite's beautiful wilderness during the peak season (May through September) are encouraged to make a permit reservation.

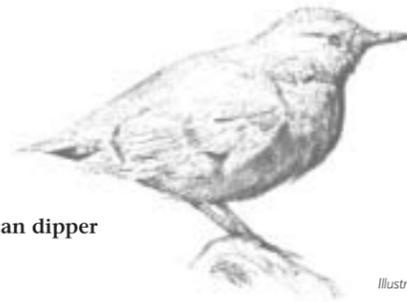
Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the start of your trip. There is a \$5 per person reservation fee. To make a permit reservation call 209/372-0740.

For wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness



John Muir, co-founder of the Sierra Club and champion of Yosemite, hiking in Yosemite Valley along the Merced River, c. 1900.

Photo courtesy of Yosemite Museum



American dipper

Illustration by Lawrence Ormsby

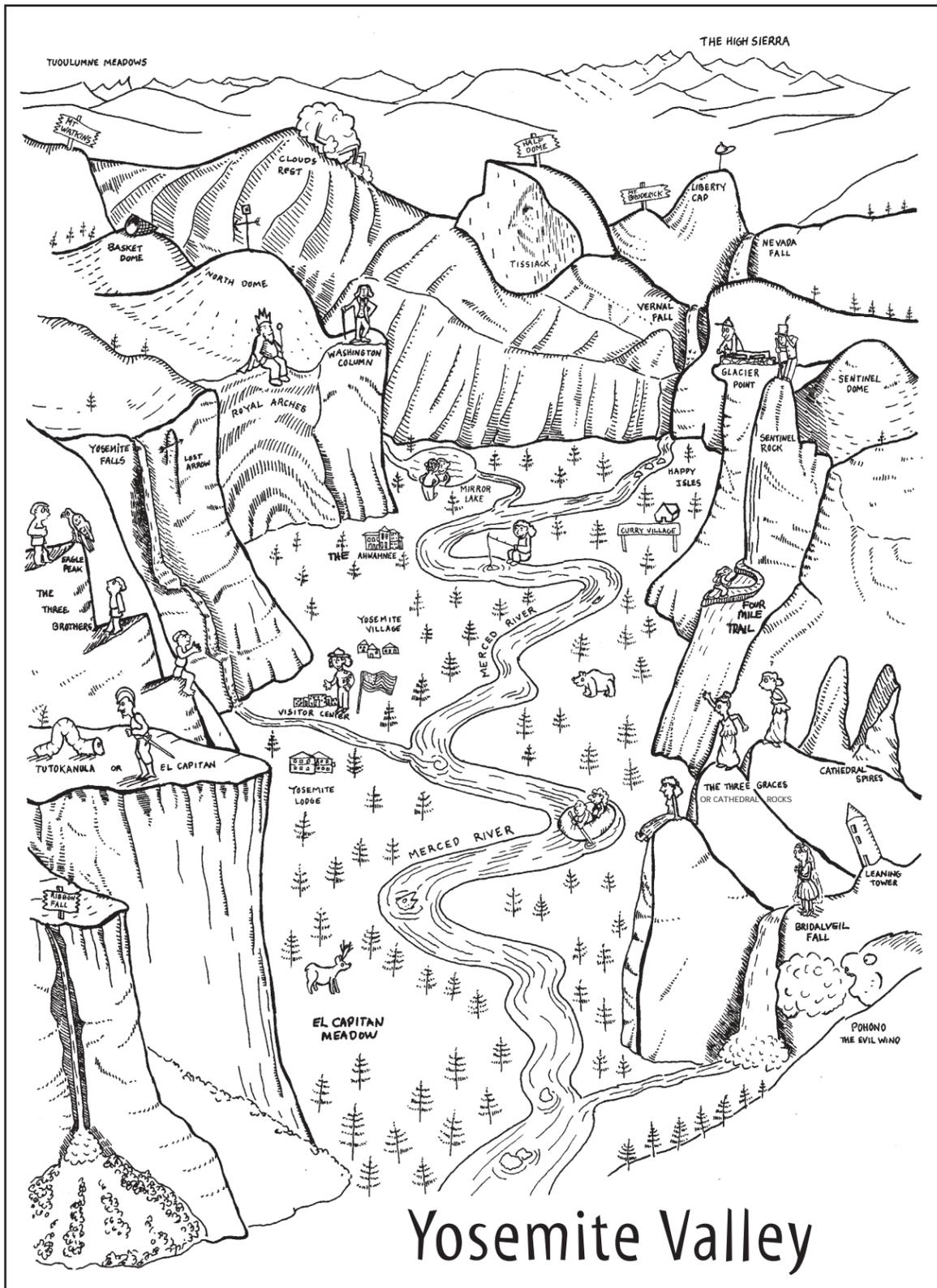
YOSEMITE VALLEY DAY HIKES

| DESTINATION / TRAIL | STARTING POINT | DISTANCE | DIFFICULTY/ ELEVATION GAIN | APPROXIMATE HIKING TIME | NOTES |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| BRIDALVEIL FALL | Bridalveil Fall Parking Area | 1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km) | Easy | 20 minutes round trip | ♿ with assistance |
| MIRROR LAKE | Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17 | 2 mile to round trip (3.2 km) | Easy | 1 hour round trip | ♿ Vehicle access available with placard |
| LOWER YOSEMITE FALL | Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #6 | 1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km) | Easy | 20 minutes round trip | ♿ with assistance |
| UPPER YOSEMITE FALL TRAIL COLUMBIA ROCK | Camp 4 (Sunnyside Campground) near Shuttle Stop #7 | 2 miles round trip (3.2 km) | Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain | 2 to 3 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter |
| TOP OF YOSEMITE FALL | Same as above | 7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km) | Very Strenuous 2,700' (810 m) elevation gain | 6 to 8 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter |
| MIST TRAIL OR JOHN MUIR TRAIL | | | | | |
| VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE | Happy Isles/Shuttle Stop #16 | 1.4 miles round trip (2.0 km) | Moderate 400' (120 m) elevation gain | 1 to 2 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available |
| TOP OF VERNAL FALL | Same as above | 3 miles round trip (4.8 km) | Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain | 2 to 4 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available |
| TOP OF NEVADA FALL | Same as above | 7 miles round trip (11.3 km) | Strenuous 1,900' (570 m) elevation gain | 5 to 6 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available |
| TOP OF HALF DOME | Same as above | 17 miles round trip (27.4 km) | Extremely Strenuous 4,800' (1,463 m) elevation gain | 10 to 12 hours round trip | Cables up from June to mid-October; otherwise cable route is inaccessible |
| GLACIER POINT FOUR MILE TRAIL | Southside Drive | 4.8 miles one way (7.6 km) | Very strenuous 3,200' (960 m) elevation gain | 3 to 4 hours one way | Check conditions at Visitor Center Closed in winter |
| VALLEY FLOOR LOOP | Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #6 | 13 miles full loop (20.8 km) 6.5 miles half loop (10.4 km) | Moderate | 5 to 7 hours full loop 2.5 to 3.5 hours half loop | Get full description from Visitor Center |

JULY TO SEPTEMBER
Trail restrictions 1/2 mile from summit due to trail repair. Check visitor center for details or see page 2.



JUST FOR KIDS



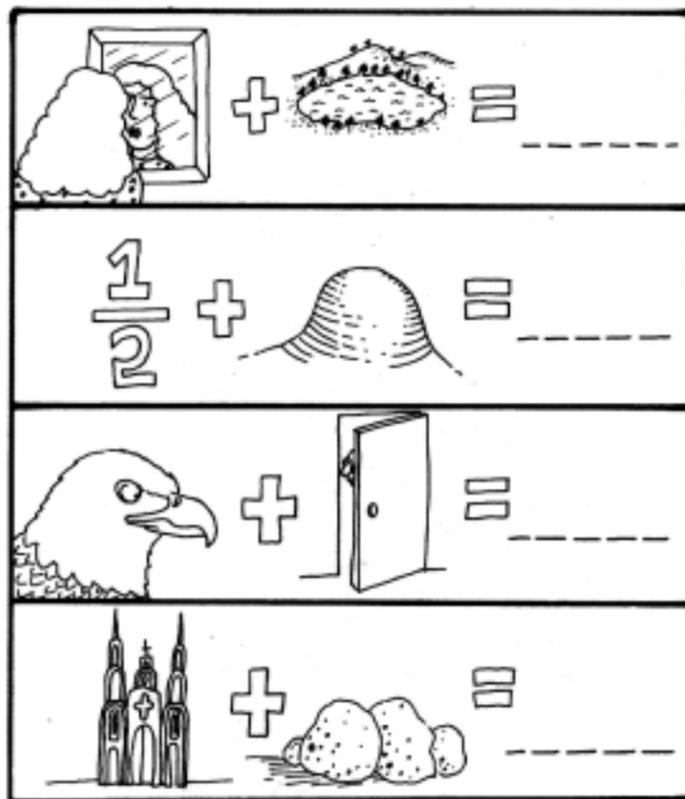
ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Two historic landmarks in Yosemite Valley—the Nature Center at Happy Isles and LeConte Memorial Lodge—can help families with children explore and understand Yosemite’s natural world. The Nature Center at Happy Isles, open mid-June to late September (see *Yosemite Today* for hours), offers state-of-the-art exhibits, hands-on activities, and a small bookstore (near shuttle bus stop #16). LeConte Memorial Lodge (shuttle bus stop #12), open through mid-September, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features a children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

Enjoy the morning or afternoon with a professional naturalist and a small group of families to explore the wonders of Yosemite’s natural world and cultural history. Yosemite Concession Services’ (YCS), “Explore Yosemite” program offers a hands-on exploratory adventure for families with children ages 6-14 beginning mid-June. Registration and information can be obtained at the front desk of any YCS lodging or at any tour desk. Children are \$10 and parents are free. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. All sessions will depart from the Curry Village Amphitheater.

For activities especially for children, look for programs listed in color in *Yosemite Today*.

PLACE NAME REBUS



Rebus means word pictures. Each set of pictures forms the name of a well-known landmark in Yosemite Valley. Can you solve these puzzles? If you need help, look at the map.

Answers on page 15

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Kids ages 7-13: You can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association. This booklet is sold for \$3.50 plus tax at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations. In order to earn a Junior Ranger patch, the booklet must be completed, a bag of trash collected, and a guided program attended.

See *Yosemite Today* for a schedule of ranger-led Junior Ranger programs.

LITTLE CUBS WANTED!

Are you between the ages of 3 and 6? Yosemite has a program for YOU! Little Cubs is a self-guided booklet that encourages our young visitors and their families to discover Yosemite’s wonders and to earn a Little Cubs button. This booklet (published by the Yosemite Association) is sold for \$3 plus tax in the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations.

Yosemite Valley Map and Place Name Rebus is from the **Yosemite Fun Book** by Michael Elsohn Ross, available at stores throughout the park.

HELP YOUR PARK



YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications, and membership activities. For over 70 years, the Association has provided important financial support to the National Park Service, and has made possible the funding of many projects and purchases otherwise not affordable through normal government appropriations.

The Yosemite Association:

- Provides funding annually to the National Park Service for visitor information, educational, and interpretive programs
- Publishes popular and award-winning books on Yosemite and operates bookstores in the park
- Provides member-volunteers to work on meadows, trails, and other much-needed park restoration projects
- Organizes over 60 outdoor classes and field seminars on natural history, American Indian lifeways, art, and photography
- Sponsors the Ostrander Ski Hut, Art Activity Center, and other valuable programs

Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park is encouraged to become a member of the Yosemite Association. Sign up for a membership through this *Yosemite Guide* and receive as a free gift, *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*. This book is informative and useful, lively and humorous, and earned the "Best National Park Guidebook" award from the National Park Service.

Membership dues, which start at \$30 per year, entitle you to receive discounts on Yosemite Association merchandise and Outdoor Adventures, lodging discounts, a quarterly journal, opportunities to volunteer in the park and attend member events, as well as many other benefits.



Stunning aerial footage is part of the new visitor orientation film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, made possible through donations to The Yosemite Fund.

Photo courtesy of GreyStone Films



THE YOSEMITE FUND

PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE'S FUTURE

Just how vast and extraordinary is Yosemite? Many visitors leave before getting a chance to find out. Now you can obtain a sense of the whole Yosemite—from the upper reaches of a giant sequoia tree to the expansive backcountry to dramatic aerial views of Yosemite Valley—through the new visitor orientation film, *Spirit of Yosemite*.

This award-winning 35mm film replaces an outdated slide show, and includes magnificent scenery, outstanding sound, and information about Yosemite's formation and natural and cultural history. *Spirit of Yosemite* shows regularly at the Valley Visitor Center West Auditorium, and video copies—a perfect Yosemite keepsake or gift—are now available for purchase at the Visitor Center and other park retail outlets. Proceeds will benefit park educational programs.

Spirit of Yosemite is just one of many projects supported by The Yosemite Fund, a nonprofit organization that raises money from Yosemite enthusiasts to protect and restore the park and enhance the visitor's experience. Now in its 14th year, the Fund has distributed over \$15 million for more than 150 projects. Thanks to gifts from dedicated "Friends of Yosemite," the Fund has helped:

- Install 2,000 bear-proof food lockers throughout Yosemite
- Rehabilitate Cook's Meadow in the heart of Yosemite Valley
- Rebuild numerous sections of Yosemite's 800+ miles of trail

This year, The Yosemite Fund hopes to sponsor many more projects including new educational wayside exhibits, wilderness restoration, and rehabilitation of the historic covered bridge at Wawona.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of \$25 or more receive:

- The 15-page full-color *Yosemite Postcard Book*, or other gift described below
- The Fund's biannual full-color magazine, *Approach*, featuring articles on the park and information about how your donation is helping Yosemite
- Acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center

Please fill out the coupon below and become a Friend of Yosemite today.

PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint/Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> International \$40 (for members outside the U.S.) |

Yes, please send *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*

Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ _____ or charge to

Credit card # _____ Expiration Date _____

E-mail address _____



P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
www.yosemite.org

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE WHO PROVIDE FOR YOSEMITE'S FUTURE!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$____(Other) |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check or money order, or charge to my VISA/MasterCard/AmEx

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Friends of Yosemite receive the full-color *Yosemite Postcard Book* (with a \$25 gift), beautiful Yosemite note cards (\$50), or the photo book, *Cycle of the Seasons* (\$100+).

John Muir Heritage Society members, giving \$1,000 or more, receive invitations to events at Yosemite, name listing on the Honor Wall in Yosemite Village, and other Society benefits.



THE YOSEMITE FUND
Providing for Yosemite's Future

THE YOSEMITE FUND
P.O. Box 637
Yosemite, CA 95389
800/4MY-PARK
www.yosemitefund.org

GENERAL INFORMATION



LOST AND FOUND

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call Yosemite Concession Services at 209/372-4357, or write YCS Lost & Found, P.O. Box 578, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the National Park Service at 209/379-1001, or write to NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Road, B-759, El Portal, CA 95318.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bear Canister Rental

Available at the Wilderness Center, Yosemite Valley Sports Shop, Curry Village Mountain Shop, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Crane Flat Store, Wawona Store, Wawona Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Mountaineering School and Sport Shop, Tuolumne Meadows Store, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters may be rented or returned at any rental location in the park.

Babysitting

Limited babysitting available for registered guests at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Call front desk or concierge for additional information.

Kennel

(Spring through fall, weather permitting)

Located at the stable in Yosemite Valley. Dogs must be gentle, weigh over 10 pounds, with proof of shots and license required. 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 209/372-8348

Employment Opportunities

Would you like to be part of Yosemite's future? Employment opportunities exist at Yosemite National Park with the National Park Service, Volunteers in Parks, and Yosemite Concession Services Corporation.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

For job information on the web visit, www.usajobs.opm.gov

Employment hotline:

209/372-0200-6-1-1 (for permanent positions)

209/372-0200-6-1-2 (for seasonal positions)

To contact the Yosemite National Park Human Resource Office, call 209/379-1805 or write: Yosemite National Park, Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

Individuals and groups interested in community service projects in Yosemite can call the Volunteer Program Manager at 209/379-1850. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project.

YOSEMITE CONCESSION SERVICES

Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Village or call 209/372-1236.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Outdoor seminars, some for college credit. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2321 yosemite.org

YOSEMITE INSTITUTE

Non-profit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based sessions for school groups, teachers, and other groups. P.O. Box 487, Yosemite, CA 95389. 209/379-9511 www.yni.org

NPS EDUCATION BRANCH

Ranger-guided programs, resource information, teacher workshops. Wawona Ranger Station P.O. Box 2027, Wawona, CA 95389 209/375-9505. For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/372-0206 www.nps.gov/yose/learn.

PARKS AS CLASSROOMS

Yosemite National Park is the ideal outdoor classroom for exploring natural and cultural history. Yosemite's Parks As Classrooms program coordinates with the California State Frameworks for elementary grades and offers ranger-led field trips. Each program lasts 1 to 2 hours. Park entrance fees are waived for the visit.

These programs emphasize the National Park Service message of protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources. Fall visits feature a Miwok Indian theme. Reservations can be made beginning July 1. Class size is limited to 35 students.

For further information regarding this and other National Park Service education programs, call at 209/372-0303, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose/learn. For a fee waiver application, call 209/372-0206 or download an application online (www.nps.gov/yose/permits/waivers.htm).

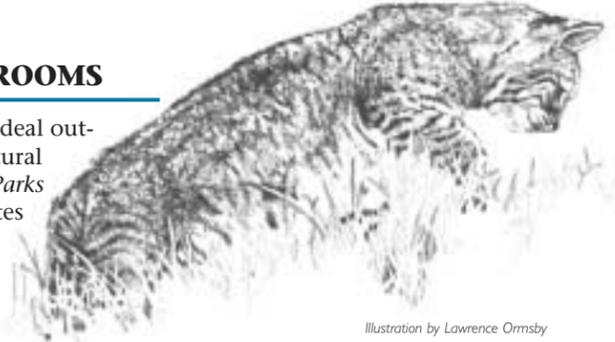


Illustration by Lawrence Ormsby

READY FOR ADVENTURE?

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures invites you to explore Yosemite through one of its fun, educational courses. You can learn about photography amidst one of the world's spectacular landscapes. Or join a group searching the eastern Sierra crest for bighorn sheep. Raft the scenic Merced River with a park naturalist, or gaze at the starry skies over Half Dome with an astronomer.

Upcoming courses include:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| June 1 | Get Lost with a Ranger: Map & Compass for Beginners |
| June 22 | Rockclimbing Then & Now |
| June 17 | Exploring Yosemite for Beginners |
| July 13-14 | High Country Wildflower Hikes |
| August 15-18 | Cathedral Lakes Beginning Backpack |
| September 27-29 | Miniature Miwok-Paiute Coiled Basket Making |

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures is operated by the Yosemite Association, a nonprofit educational organization that supports Yosemite. Proceeds from the program directly benefit the park. For more information or to request a catalog call 209/379-2321 or visit www.yosemite.org.

ENJOY THE JOURNEY WITH YARTS

If you prefer to enjoy the Yosemite area's magnificent scenery rather than watch the road, YARTS transit service to and from the park could be the option for you. The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) provides round-trip transit service between communities within Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties and Yosemite National Park.

Year-round:

- From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley.

Summer only:

- From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East via the June Lake Loop (*weekends June through September; daily service in July and August*).

Fares for riding YARTS vary, but generally range between \$7 and \$20 round trip for an adult, including entrance to the park. YARTS also offers discounts for children and seniors.

For spring schedule information, check the YARTS web site at www.yarts.com or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/388-9589. For information on the Highway 120 East service (Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley) please call 800/626-6684.

Answers to *Place Name Rebus* from page 13.
Mirror Lake, Half Dome, Eagle Peak, Cathedral Rocks

Become a PART of the FUTURE

To continue the National Park Service's goals of preserving park resources and serving visitors, Yosemite needs employees and volunteers from all walks of life, from all ethnic backgrounds, with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to turn those goals into reality.

To protect park resources and to serve the public, Yosemite employs a permanent and a seasonal workforce of over 700 individuals every year. The variety of paid positions available may surprise you: biologists, criminal investigators, human resource managers, accountants, electricians, historians, and even traditional park rangers. Whatever the job, a rewarding experience with Yosemite National Park and the National Park Service is guaranteed.

Yosemite National Park also has active Volunteers in Parks, Youth Conservation Corps, and Student Conservation Association programs. Participants of these splendid programs come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Young and old alike give of their time and expertise to



NPS Photo by C. Marie Meckie

assist National Park Service staff.

For specific employment information, or to find out what positions are currently available and how to apply, contact the Human Resources Office by calling 209/379-1805. You may also access either the Yosemite National Park web site at www.nps.gov/yose or USAJobs at www.usajobs.opm.gov for a listing of employment opportunities as they occur.

Selection for employment will be made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, physical handicap, age, membership or non-membership in an employee organization, personal favoritism, or other non-merit factors.

The National Park Service is



an Equal Opportunity Employer

U.S. Department
of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

| | |
|--|------------------|
| | Roadway |
| | Shuttle Bus Only |
| | Shuttle Bus Stop |
| | Trailhead |
| | Hiking Trail |
| | Bike Path |
| | Campground |
| | Picnic Area |
| | Restroom |
| | Parking |

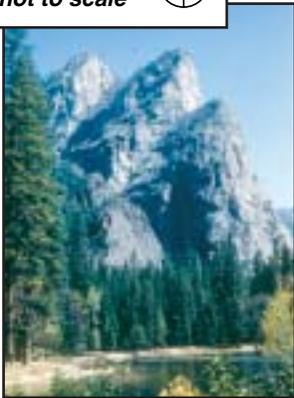
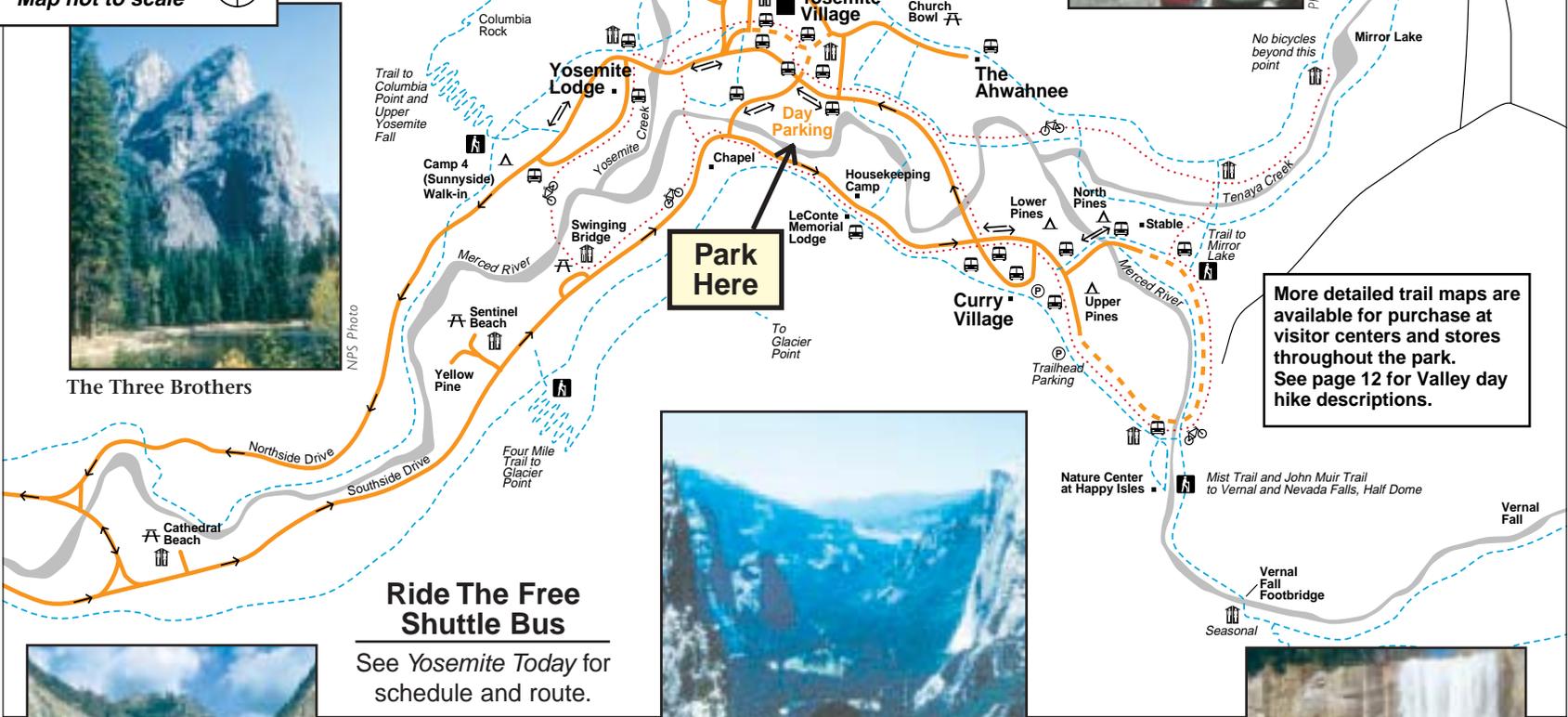
Map not to scale



Visitor Center
Located in Yosemite Village. Park and walk or take the free shuttle bus.



Photo by Chamberlin/Kodak



The Three Brothers

NPS Photo

Park Here

More detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 12 for Valley day hike descriptions.

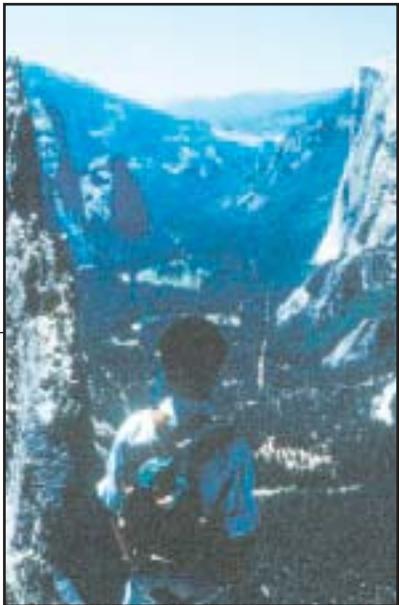
Ride The Free Shuttle Bus

See *Yosemite Today* for schedule and route.



Bridalveil Fall

Photo by Mike Osborne



Valley view from the Four Mile Trail

Photo by J.M. Jaenecke



Vernal Fall

Photo by Kodak

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